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## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WAYMO LLC,

No. C 17-00939 WHA

Plaintiff,

v.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.;  
OTTOMOTTO LLC; and OTTO  
TRUCKING LLC,**ORDER RE MOTIONS FOR  
PARTIAL SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT AND MOTION TO  
STRIKE ASSERTED TRADE  
SECRET NUMBER 96**

Defendants.

(UNDER SEAL)

**INTRODUCTION**

In this action for trade secret misappropriation, all parties move for partial summary judgment on select issues. Plaintiff's motion is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. Defendants' motion is also **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. Defendants' motions to strike and for summary judgment as to asserted trade secret number 96 are **GRANTED**.

**STATEMENT**

The factual background of this action has been detailed in a prior order. In brief, plaintiff Waymo LLC sued defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Ottomotto LLC (collectively, "Uber"), and Otto Trucking LLC for alleged misappropriation of trade secrets concerning Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology that helps self-driving cars "see" their surroundings. The centerpiece of Waymo's case is its evidence that its former star engineer, non-party Anthony Levandowski, downloaded over 14,000 confidential files from Waymo immediately before leaving his employment there to start Ottomotto and Otto Trucking

1 (collectively, “Otto”). Uber then acquired Ottomotto and hired Levandowski as the head of its  
2 self-driving car efforts (Dkt. No. 426).<sup>1</sup>

3 By agreement of both sides, this action was set for a jury trial on October 10. After the  
4 belated production of non-party Stroz Friedberg’s due diligence report on the Otto acquisition,  
5 however, Waymo successfully moved to continue the trial date to December 4 (Dkt. No. 1954).

6 Waymo moves for partial summary judgment on certain affirmative defenses (Dkt. No.  
7 1418). Uber moves for partial summary judgment that Waymo’s asserted trade secret number  
8 nine is not a trade secret, and Otto Trucking moves for summary judgment that it has not  
9 misappropriated any alleged Waymo trade secret (Dkt. No. 1423). All defendants also move for  
10 partial summary judgment on Waymo’s asserted trade secret number 96 on multiple grounds,  
11 including that it was inadequately disclosed (Dkt. Nos. 1514, 1518). The latter motion also  
12 represents the final piece of defendants’ prior motion to strike certain trade secret claims (Dkt.  
13 Nos. 1108, 1129), which has already been denied as to all challenged claims except asserted  
14 trade secret number 96 (*see* Dkt. No. 1260 at 108:5–15, 110:13–111:3, 133:24–134:13).<sup>2</sup>

15 This order follows full briefing and oral argument.

## 16 ANALYSIS

### 17 1. LEGAL STANDARD.

18 Summary judgment is appropriate when there is no genuine dispute of material fact and  
19 the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. A genuine dispute of material fact  
20 is one that “might affect the outcome of the suit under the governing law.” *Anderson v. Liberty*  
21 *Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 247–48 (1986). In deciding a motion for summary judgment, the  
22 court must believe the non-movant’s evidence and draw all justifiable inferences in their favor.  
23 *Id.* at 255. “The mere existence of a scintilla of evidence” or “some metaphysical doubt as to  
24 the material facts” in the non-movant’s favor, however, will not suffice. *Id.* at 252, 260–61  
25 (quoting *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co., Ltd. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986)).

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>1</sup> For the benefit of the court of appeals and with apologies to the public, most record citations herein  
are to the unredacted versions of the documents cited.

28 <sup>2</sup> Defendants also moved for summary judgment of noninfringement of Waymo’s United States Patent  
No. 9,368,936, but Waymo’s dismissal of its patent claim moots that part of the motion (Dkt. No. 1593).

1 “Where the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the non-  
2 moving party, there is no genuine issue for trial.” *Matsushita*, 475 U.S. at 587 (quotation and  
3 citation omitted).

4 **2. WAYMO’S MOTION RE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES.**

5 Waymo initially moved for summary judgment on eleven of defendants’ affirmative  
6 defenses (Dkt. No. 1418). In their opposition brief, defendants waived all but two (Dkt. No.  
7 1524-3 at 2). Only defendants’ failure-to-mitigate defense and Otto Trucking’s unclean hands  
8 defense remain in dispute on this motion.

9 **A. Failure to Mitigate.**

10 Waymo contends defendants have no evidence that it failed to mitigate its damages  
11 because (1) Waymo sued “within weeks of obtaining evidence of . . . trade secret  
12 misappropriation,” *i.e.*, the email dated December 13, 2016, from LiDAR component vendor  
13 Gorilla Circuits (*see* Dkt. No. 426 at 5); (2) any “delay” in bringing suit was *de minimis*; and (3)  
14 “[t]he length of the head start created by Uber’s trade secret misappropriation does not depend  
15 on the timing of Waymo’s suit” (Dkt. No. 1418 at 8–9).

16 Defendants note that Waymo “began investigating a compromise of its alleged trade  
17 secrets” months before receiving the Gorilla email, involved outside counsel in said  
18 investigation by July and August 2016, “accelerated its investigation after learning about Uber’s  
19 imminent acquisition of Ottomotto,” and internally discussed when to reach out to Uber about  
20 its “potential concerns” (Dkt. No. 1524-3 at 16). Far from showing failure to mitigate, these  
21 facts actually indicate that Waymo acted diligently by actively investigating its “potential  
22 concerns” and “accelerat[ing] its investigation after learning about Uber’s imminent acquisition  
23 of Ottomotto.” These facts do nothing to rebut Waymo’s point that it filed suit promptly after  
24 receiving the Gorilla email that appeared to contain first evidence of actual trade secret  
25 misappropriation by defendants.

26 As noted in the prior order granting provisional relief, defendants essentially “contend  
27 that Waymo lacks *sufficient* evidence of use but simultaneously criticize Waymo for not suing  
28 before it had *any* evidence of use” (Dkt. No. 426 at 19–20). This dissonance remains on full

1 display in defendants' opposition to the instant motion. For example, defendants specifically  
2 argue that "Waymo has failed to meet its duty to mitigate by delaying in seeking injunctive  
3 relief as to Otto Trucking" and in the very next paragraph claim "Waymo has no evidence that  
4 Otto Trucking is involved in the development of LiDAR or that it has used the purported trade  
5 secrets" (Dkt. No. 1524-3 at 15). Were this really true, it would be a mystery how or why  
6 Waymo could or would have sought earlier relief.

7 Insinuations about Waymo's ulterior motives, including that "Waymo did not care about  
8 Mr. Levandowski or his companies" and "made the strategic choice to delay in suing Otto  
9 Trucking until it could cobble together a way to sue Uber," permeate the defense brief (*see id.* at  
10 16). Such facts, if true, may bear on the merits of Waymo's trade secret misappropriation  
11 claims insofar as they may speak to the value of the asserted trade secrets. But they do not  
12 further indicate, as defendants suggest, that Waymo had some prior opportunity to mitigate its  
13 damages and squandered it by filing suit later rather than sooner. This order agrees with  
14 Waymo that, taken as a whole, the record reflects only *de minimis*, if any, delay by Waymo in  
15 bringing this action.

16 Defendants have failed to show a genuine dispute of material fact on their failure-to-  
17 mitigate defense because this record, taken as a whole, could not lead a rational trier of fact to  
18 find for defendants on said defense as to any claim to be tried by a jury. Waymo's motion for  
19 summary judgment on this defense is **GRANTED** without prejudice to any future argument that,  
20 as an equitable matter, Waymo's timeliness (or lack thereof) in suing may somehow diminish  
21 its entitlement to equitable relief.

22 **B. Unclean Hands.**

23 Unclean hands "closes the doors of a court of equity to one tainted with inequitableness  
24 or bad faith relative to the matter in which he seeks relief." *Jarrow Formulas, Inc. v. Nutrition*  
25 *Now, Inc.*, 304 F.3d 829, 841 (9th Cir. 2002) (quoting *Precision Instrument Mfg. Co. v. Auto.*  
26 *Maint. Mach. Co.*, 324 U.S. 806, 814 (1945)). As our court of appeals has said, "troubling"  
27 actions and "hands [that] are not as 'clean as snow'" do not necessarily rise to the level of  
28 unclean hands. *Id.* at 842. Rather, "the defense of illegality or unclean hands is recognized

**United States District Court**

For the Northern District of California

1 only rarely, when the plaintiff’s transgression is of serious proportions and relates directly to the  
2 subject matter of the . . . action” — for example, when a plaintiff “misused the process of the  
3 courts by falsifying a court order or evidence.” *Dream Games of Ariz., Inc. v. PC Onsite*, 561  
4 F.3d 983, 990–91 (9th Cir. 2009) (quotation omitted). “The application or rejection of the clean  
5 hands doctrine in a given case is equitable in nature and within the discretion of the trial court.”  
6 *Wash. Capitols Basketball Club, Inc. v. Barry*, 419 F.2d 472, 478 (9th Cir. 1969).

7 Here, Waymo contends Otto Trucking has no evidence that “Waymo engaged in  
8 misconduct directly related to the claims that Waymo is asserting” (Dkt. No. 1418 at 9). In  
9 response, Otto Trucking claims “Waymo has ‘sought at every turn to create the false  
10 impression’ that its forensic investigation proved that Mr. Levandowski had stolen valuable  
11 trade secrets from Waymo by downloading 14,000 files — the entire repository — from  
12 Waymo’s SVN server,” citing evidence tending to show weaknesses in Waymo’s case (Dkt. No.  
13 1524-3 at 13–14). For example, Otto Trucking points to Sasha Zbrozek, a Waymo engineer,  
14 who told Waymo’s lawyers the downloaded files were “low-value” and added that “it was  
15 regular practice for engineers” to download the entire SVN repository (*ibid.*), revelations that  
16 had to be pried out of Waymo by Court order. Given this stonewalling, Otto Trucking argues,  
17 Waymo’s “presentation of its case contrary to facts” constitutes unclean hands.

18 Since this *equitable* defense will have meaning only if Waymo ultimately prevails on the  
19 merits, there is no need to reach it now. Indeed, it would be premature to decide the issue at  
20 this stage, since litigation remains ongoing and further evidence of Waymo’s misconduct may  
21 yet come to light. It is conceivable that Waymo might win at trial and then seek some equitable  
22 relief, whereupon its own conduct in this litigation might loom large as an inequity and fairness  
23 may (or may not) require moderation or even denial of any relief. Moreover, inasmuch as  
24 Waymo’s motion relates specifically to a defense asserted by Otto Trucking, it is mooted by this  
25 order, which grants summary judgment of no liability in favor of Otto Trucking. Thus, both  
26 because it is premature and because it is moot, Waymo’s motion for summary judgment on the  
27 defense of unclean hands is **DENIED**.

28

1           **3. UBER'S MOTION RE ASSERTED TRADE SECRET NUMBER NINE.**

2           Both the California Uniform Trade Secrets Act and the federal Defend Trade Secrets  
3 Act define "trade secret" as information that:

- 4           (1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from  
5 not being generally known to the public or to other persons who  
6 can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and  
7  
8           (2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the  
9 circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

10           CAL. CIV. CODE § 3426.1; *see also* 18 U.S.C. 1839. Here, Waymo's asserted trade secret  
11 number nine claims (Dkt. No. 25-7 at 8):

12           [A] LiDAR system comprising a transmit block comprising a  
13 plurality of laser diodes, wherein said transmit block is comprised  
14 of a plurality of PCBs [printed circuit boards], and wherein each  
15 laser diode is configured to emit beams and wherein a cylindrical  
16 lens is positioned in front of each laser diode, said cylindrical lens  
17 being configured to [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED].

19           Defendants' motion relies on a compilation of evidence from various sources to argue  
20 that various subparts of Waymo's asserted trade secret number nine are generally known in the  
21 field. Defendants point out that Waymo's own United States Patent No. 8,836,922 (Dkt. No.  
22 23-1) disclosed at all relevant times "a LiDAR system comprising a transmit block comprising a  
23 plurality of laser diodes, wherein said transmit block is comprised of a plurality of PCBs"  
24 (*see* Dkt. No. 1419-4 at 10). They also quote the deposition testimony of Waymo's engineers  
25 for the proposition that using FAC lenses to [REDACTED] is a well-known concept  
26 in the field, as is the general notion that the lens in front of a light source can be [REDACTED]  
27 [REDACTED] (*see id.* at 10–12). Finally, they point to Velodyne's  
28 commercially-available LiDAR system as an example of another LiDAR system that uses FAC  
lenses to [REDACTED] (*see id.* at 13).

None of the foregoing evidence conclusively shows that Waymo's entire asserted trade  
secret number nine was generally known to the public or in the field. The '922 patent did not  
disclose a "cylindrical lens being configured to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]."

1 The same Waymo engineers quoted by defendants also testified to the effect that the strategy of  
2 using FAC lenses to [REDACTED] in a LiDAR system is not generally  
3 known in the field (see Dkt. Nos. 1526-10 at 230:16–231:19; 1526-25 at 217:16–218:20). And  
4 while Velodyne has used its FAC lenses to [REDACTED] in its LiDAR systems (see  
5 Dkt. No. 1526-28 at 68:7–69:6), Waymo contends this [REDACTED] was used to [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED], not to [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] in the first instance (see Dkt. No. 1526-4 at 16–17). For the latter purpose of  
8 [REDACTED], it seems, Velodyne relies on the strategic [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED] (see, e.g., Dkt. No. 1526-27 at  
10 19). Additionally, Velodyne itself insists — albeit in general terms — that the relevant details  
11 of its LiDAR system constitute trade secret information (Dkt. No. 1455).

12 In their reply brief, defendants seize upon Waymo’s explanation that the design claimed  
13 in asserted trade secret number nine “stems in part from the fact that Waymo, unlike Velodyne,  
14 positions *multiple* laser diodes on a single PCB, with multiple PCBs stacked *in parallel*” (see  
15 Dkt. Nos. 1526-4 at 10, 1636-4 at 2 (emphasis added)). (Velodyne uses [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED].)  
17 Defendants accuse Waymo of “acknowledg[ing] that it cannot bar its former engineers from  
18 using multiple diodes on multiple PCBs” because of its ’922 patent, yet “seek[ing] to bar them  
19 from including in such a design the basic optical concept of [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]” (Dkt. No. 1636-4 at 2). But this reasoning merely begs the  
21 question, *i.e.*, whether Waymo’s use of FAC lenses to [REDACTED] within  
22 its patented LiDAR system is actually a “basic optical concept.”

23 True, substantial parts of asserted trade secret number nine are encompassed by the ’922  
24 patent. But it remains a question of fact whether or not Waymo’s use of FAC lenses to [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] was generally known to the public or in the field. For  
26 example, both sides agree that Velodyne’s LiDAR system meets the definition of a LiDAR  
27 system “comprising a transmit block comprising a plurality of laser diodes, wherein said  
28 transmit block is comprised of a plurality of PCBs” (see Dkt. Nos. 1526-4 at 7, 1636-4 at 4 n.1).

1 Yet, as explained above, Velodyne’s LiDAR system is significantly different from Waymo’s,  
2 including in how each system uses its FAC lenses to [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]. In short, it remains possible that a LiDAR design might use that part of  
4 asserted trade secret nine that is encompassed by the ’922 patent but nevertheless not arrive at  
5 Waymo’s particular solution of using FAC lenses to [REDACTED].

6 Defendants also brush off the question of “whether Velodyne’s FAC design is public or  
7 confidential,” urging instead that “the point is that the general concept of using an FAC to [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED] is known in the LiDAR field, and follows fundamental principles of optics” (Dkt. No.  
9 1636-4 at 4). This argument dismisses the evidence without responding to it. The point is that  
10 whether or not Velodyne considers its design to be trade secret information may bear on  
11 whether or not Waymo’s asserted trade secret number nine is *generally* known to the public or  
12 in the field, as defendants contend.

13 In summary, defendants’ arguments as to asserted trade secret number nine — including  
14 whether or not Waymo’s asserted trade secret number nine encompasses no more than ordinary  
15 concepts and skills inherent in the head of every LiDAR engineer, the degree to which  
16 Waymo’s ’922 patent and Velodyne’s commercially-available LiDAR system disclose asserted  
17 trade secret number nine, and whether or not Velodyne’s designs constitute sufficient evidence  
18 that asserted trade secret number nine is generally known in the field — all present genuine  
19 disputes of material fact. They are accordingly reserved for the jury, and defendants’ motion  
20 for summary judgment that asserted trade secret number nine is not a trade secret is **DENIED**.

21 **4. OTTO TRUCKING’S MOTION RE MISAPPROPRIATION.**

22 Otto Trucking has never been involved in the development or use of LiDAR systems,  
23 and exists simply as a holding company to own trucks equipped with Velodyne’s LiDAR  
24 system (Dkt. No. 1419-4 at 16–20). Unlike Ottomotto, it has not been acquired by Uber and  
25 remains a separate company. Waymo nevertheless seeks to preserve its trade secret  
26 misappropriation claims against Otto Trucking by lumping it together with Uber and  
27 Levandowski under various unpersuasive theories, which this order now discusses.

1       A recurring problem in Waymo’s briefing must be addressed at the outset. Waymo  
2 repeatedly suggests that *Otto Trucking* should be deemed automatically liable for trade secret  
3 misappropriation by *Levandowski*. To give just a few non-exhaustive examples, Waymo  
4 purports to identify “*Otto Trucking*’s role in the misappropriation” but goes on to recite only  
5 that “a central figure in the misappropriation of Waymo’s trade secrets — *Anthony Levandowski*  
6 — is Otto Trucking’s Executive Chairman, co-Managing Member, and largest stockholder”  
7 (Dkt. No. 1526-4 at 19 (emphasis added)). Waymo also contends its claims “encompass *Otto*  
8 *Trucking*’s acquisition — by way of *Mr. Levandowski*’s theft — of the asserted trade secrets  
9 (*id.* at 21). And even Waymo’s supplemental offer of proof as to *Otto Trucking* relies primarily  
10 on evidence of *Levandowski*’s misappropriation (see Dkt. No. 2055-3 at 2–7). In short,  
11 Waymo’s case against Otto Trucking rests largely on — in Waymo’s words — its “very  
12 existence as Mr. Levandowski’s company” (Dkt. No. 1526-4 at 23).

13       To be very clear, whether or not Otto Trucking and Levandowski are, as a practical  
14 matter, similarly situated or even interchangeable in some sense, they are *not* interchangeable  
15 for purposes of this particular litigation. In a special way, this is a key limitation of Waymo’s  
16 own making. To avoid having to arbitrate this case, Waymo has repeatedly represented to both  
17 this Court and to the Federal Circuit that it has *not* sued Levandowski herein. By doing so,  
18 Waymo has successfully avoided arbitration and kept its claims in a public court. It must keep  
19 its word. Having made and benefitted from its strategic choice to not name Levandowski as a  
20 defendant, Waymo may not renege and suggest that Otto Trucking — or any other defendant —  
21 is somehow a stand-in for Levandowski, or that misappropriation by Levandowski is somehow  
22 automatically transmogrified into misappropriation by Otto Trucking — or any other defendant  
23 — such that Waymo need not separately prove the latter. This order evaluates Waymo’s  
24 arguments on the instant motion through the lens of this foundational principle.

25       In its original opposition brief, Waymo contends Otto Trucking is vicariously liable for  
26 Levandowski’s misappropriation because it failed to take adverse action against him after he  
27 formed it. Moreover, Waymo claims, Levandowski’s possession of misappropriated trade  
28 secrets will increase Otto Trucking’s value as an acquisition target for Uber. Thus, Waymo

1 reasons, Otto Trucking “accepted and retained” the benefit of Levandowski’s misappropriation,  
2 thereby ratifying his continued possession of Waymo’s trade secrets (*see* Dkt. No. 1526-4 at  
3 20–25). But it is undisputed that Otto Trucking has no practical ability to take adverse action  
4 against Levandowski. Waymo’s argument, if accepted, would mean that Otto Trucking must  
5 *always* be deemed to have “ratified” whatever Levandowski has done, and it would be of no  
6 moment for vicarious liability purposes that Otto Trucking has no meaningful choice in the  
7 matter. For all intents and purposes, Waymo’s proposed theory of vicarious liability is  
8 indistinguishable from automatic equivalence of Levandowski and Otto Trucking. Under either  
9 approach, Waymo simply wants to be able to hold Otto Trucking liable by proving only that  
10 Levandowski misappropriated its asserted trade secrets. As explained, this will not be allowed.

11 Otto Trucking’s potential future with Uber does not compel a different result. Insofar as  
12 Waymo is relying on Otto Trucking’s possible *future* actions, those actions are not properly the  
13 subject of the operative complaint in *this* litigation (although Waymo remains free to file  
14 another lawsuit in the future if defendants’ future actions give rise to additional claims). With  
15 respect to the trade secret misappropriation claims in *this* litigation, the plain text of CUTSA  
16 and DTSA provide for liability only through acquisition, use, or disclosure of trade secret  
17 information. Waymo cites no authority for its suggestion that *Otto Trucking* can be liable *now*  
18 merely because it might benefit in the *future* from the misappropriation of *other individuals and*  
19 *entities*. Indeed, this suggestion puts the cart before the horse. The question of whether a  
20 defendant benefitted from trade secret misappropriation would typically be one of damages,  
21 reached only *after* the misappropriation itself has been established in the first instance.  
22 Counting the mere possibility of such benefit as proof of misappropriation would turn this  
23 sequence on its head and drastically expand the scope of liability under CUTSA and DTSA.

24 Waymo correctly notes that any effective injunctive relief against Uber may have to  
25 include Otto Trucking as well, but incorrectly asserts that this practical fact bars summary  
26 judgment as to liability (*see* Dkt. No. 1526-4 at 23). The effectiveness of injunctive relief is a  
27 matter of remedies, not of liability.

28

1       Waymo's supplemental opposition brief similarly fails to raise a genuine issue of  
2 material fact as to Otto Trucking's liability for the claims at issue in this litigation. It  
3 substantially overlaps with Waymo's prior arguments and again relies heavily on evidence of  
4 *Levandowski's* misappropriation to state a case against *Otto Trucking* (see Dkt. No. 2055-3 at  
5 2–9). It also summarizes evidence that Don Burnette, another co-founder and shareholder of  
6 Otto Trucking, misappropriated trade secrets in motion planning software that Waymo had  
7 sought to add as new claims late in the case (see *id.* at 9–10, 16). Those proposed new claims,  
8 however, will not be added to our upcoming trial this year, so they do not justify preserving  
9 Waymo's current claims against Otto Trucking (although they may justify adding Otto  
10 Trucking back in for a second trial later on if Waymo is eventually allowed to add in its  
11 proposed new software misappropriation claims) (see Dkt. No. 2129).

12       In its supplemental opposition brief, Waymo reiterates in one short paragraph that  
13 “Levandowski possessed and retained accessed [sic] to Waymo trade secret information while  
14 Mr. Levandowski was working at Otto Trucking,” “that trade secret information was used in  
15 LiDAR development efforts by Mr. Levandowski and other individuals who were  
16 simultaneously employed by Uber and Otto Trucking,” and “that work was done for the benefit  
17 of accelerating development of autonomous driving in both cars and trucks” (Dkt. No. 2055-3 at  
18 10–11). Waymo styles this as a showing of direct liability but provides no explanation or  
19 authority for why this evidence against *other individuals and entities* adds up to a case against  
20 *Otto Trucking* on Waymo's current claims. This evidence fails to raise a genuine dispute of  
21 material fact as to *Otto Trucking's* liability.

22       In its supplemental opposition brief, Waymo also expands its vicarious liability and  
23 ratification theories to include both Levandowski and Lior Ron, another co-founder and  
24 shareholder of Otto Trucking. As to Levandowski, these theories are rejected for the same  
25 reasons already stated. As to Ron, Waymo's supplemental offer of proof cites the due diligence  
26 report as evidence that Ron retained possession of some “confidential Waymo data.”  
27 Significantly, although Waymo describes this data in some detail — and states in later argument  
28 that Ron possessed its trade secrets — it never points to specific evidence that the data retained

1 by Ron actually included any of the asserted trade secrets at issue in this case (*see id.* at 4).  
2 Waymo also summarizes evidence that both Levandowski and Ron attempted to cover their  
3 tracks and otherwise acted suspiciously during the due diligence process, but proffers no  
4 evidence that any of this shady behavior related to or indicated trade secret misappropriation on  
5 behalf of Otto Trucking (*see id.* at 4–5). In light of these deficiencies, Otto Trucking’s  
6 “refus[al] to take any remedial actions” against Ron is of little significance (*see id.* at 13–14).  
7 In short, Waymo’s supplemental evidence regarding Ron’s actions fails to improve on its  
8 vicarious liability and ratification theories (*see id.* at 11–16).

9 Finally, in another short paragraph of its supplemental opposition brief Waymo argues  
10 that all defendants are jointly and severally liable “[r]egardless of the specific theory of liability  
11 the jury may use to find Otto Trucking liable” because many of the same individuals involved  
12 in Uber’s LiDAR-development efforts are also Otto Trucking employees, and Otto Trucking  
13 stands to benefit in the future from Uber’s development efforts. Again, Waymo provides no  
14 explanation or authority for why these assertions add up to a case against Otto Trucking on  
15 Waymo’s current claims. Its blip about joint and several liability therefore fails to raise a  
16 genuine dispute of material fact as to Otto Trucking’s liability.

17 In short, the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational jury to find Otto Trucking  
18 liable on Waymo’s current trade secret misappropriation claims. Waymo’s strongest evidence  
19 on misappropriation is about *Levandowski*, not about *Otto Trucking*, and as a result of its own  
20 litigation strategy, Waymo cannot treat the two as fungible targets. Nor can it circumvent this  
21 limitation of its own making by restyling its theory as one of vicarious liability, ratification, or  
22 joint and several liability. With this foundational principle in mind, the remainder of Waymo’s  
23 evidence against Otto Trucking fails to raise a genuine dispute of material fact that Otto  
24 Trucking misappropriated any asserted trade secrets. Summary judgment is therefore proper as  
25 to Waymo’s current claims for trade secret misappropriation against Otto Trucking.

26 That said, it remains a practical concern that, if Waymo prevails against Uber at trial,  
27 any effective injunctive relief may have to include Otto Trucking as well. The Court will  
28 therefore retain jurisdiction over Otto Trucking for the limited purpose of possibly facilitating

1 such relief. To the foregoing extent, Otto Trucking's motion for summary judgment is  
2 **GRANTED.** Otto Trucking will not be a part of the upcoming trial this year.

3 **5. DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS RE ASSERTED TRADE SECRET NUMBER 96.**

4 Pursuant to its case management responsibility as well as Section 2019.210 of the  
5 California Code of Civil Procedure, which requires trade secrets to be identified "with  
6 reasonable particularity" prior to discovery thereon, the Court required Waymo to disclose up  
7 front its asserted trade secrets. (Otherwise, trade-secret plaintiffs are liable to get into the  
8 accused files and conveniently assert that contents therein were trade secrets stolen from them.)

9 Waymo's asserted trade secret number 96 claimed "the G[B]r3 PCB Transmit Board C  
10 design schematics and layouts contained in folder [REDACTED]" The rest of  
11 Waymo's disclosure added that, "[f]or example, these details [in the schematics] include unique  
12 and unknown design characteristics such as the [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED], the selection and layout of individual electrical components, and the required  
14 manufacturing tolerances" (Dkt. Nos. 25-7 at 55).

15 Prior to the instant motion for summary judgment, defendants had moved to strike  
16 asserted trade secret number 96 as overbroad because "Waymo fails to identify with  
17 particularity what specific aspects of the hundreds of components disclosed in the 'detailed  
18 engineering schematics' it contends to be a trade secret" (Dkt. Nos. 1107-4 at 4, 1129). In  
19 response, Waymo stated, "It is not clear how a trade secret disclosure that identifies one specific  
20 PCB in one specific LIDAR design could be defined with any more 'reasonable particularity'"  
21 (Dkt. No. 1159-4 at 7). In other words, Waymo attempted to avoid the overbreadth problem by  
22 insisting that its asserted trade secret claimed only the specific design of one specific PCB (*see also*  
23 Dkt. No. 1491 at 32:3-4).

24 The judge personally examined the PCB schematic in question during a closed  
25 demonstration. It became readily apparent that the schematic in question included hundreds of  
26 components and specifications with no clue as to what part thereof might be considered trade  
27 secret information. Worse, Waymo argued that its asserted trade secret number 96  
28 encompassed not only the information contained in the schematic itself but also strategies or

1 concepts “reflected” in the schematic (*see, e.g., id.* at 54:18–55:6). It also comprehended,  
2 Waymo said, “unique and unknown design characteristics *such as the* [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED], the selection and layout of individual electrical components, and the  
4 required manufacturing tolerances” (Dkt. Nos. 25-7 at 55, 1260 at 113:10–21 (emphasis  
5 added)). Such wide-ranging expanders compounded the misery in trying to place arms around  
6 the breadth of asserted trade secret number 96.

7 This disclosure came nowhere near the required reasonable particularity. *See Advanced*  
8 *Modular Sputtering, Inc. v. Superior Court*, 132 Cal. App. 4th 826, 836 (2005) (“The degree of  
9 ‘particularity’ that is ‘reasonable’ will differ, depending on the alleged trade secrets at issue in  
10 each case.”). The vastness of Waymo’s disclosure was most unfair, for it placed defendants in  
11 the untenable position of having to prove that hundreds of subparts of the design schematic —  
12 and innumerable other strategies and concepts arguably “reflected” therein, as Waymo put it —  
13 either did not qualify as trade secret information or were not used in defendants’ technology.  
14 *See ibid.* (“Where, as here, the alleged trade secrets consist of incremental variations on, or  
15 advances in the state of the art in a highly specialized technical field, a more exacting level of  
16 particularity may be required to distinguish the alleged trade secrets from matters already  
17 known to persons skilled in that field.”)

18 Waymo’s broad claim might have been forgiven had it accused defendants of  
19 misappropriating the entire schematic lock, stock, and barrel. Its eventual accusation, however,  
20 was exactly the opposite — seizing upon a seemingly-random subpart of a subpart and claiming  
21 it had been misappropriated. When Waymo submitted its offer of proof as to defendants’  
22 alleged misappropriation of trade secrets, it focused on one tiny portion of the schematic and  
23 claimed that defendants copied it — but even that collapsed upon examination. Out of [REDACTED]  
24 PCBs in Waymo’s LiDAR system, only one was even claimed to have been copied in any  
25 respect into Uber’s LiDAR system. The only aspect of the PCB design supposedly copied was  
26 the [REDACTED], nothing else.

27 It soon turned out that even the supposed equivalence of the [REDACTED] was untrue,  
28 as will be explained in a moment. But the overbreadth of the disclosure itself was further

1 amplified when read in the context of asserted trade secret number one, so the reader will please  
2 bear with us as we revisit that history.

3 Waymo's narrowed offer of proof as to asserted trade secret number 96 in large part  
4 turned out to be merely a more detailed rendition of the evidence it had offered with respect to  
5 asserted trade secret number one — which claimed the concept of [REDACTED] on a  
6 printed circuit board in a LiDAR system — at the provisional relief stage (*compare* Dkt. No.  
7 1371-4 at 17–25 *with* Dkt. Nos. 25-61 at 8–11, 245-3 at 3–4). Significantly, the provisional  
8 relief order had already specifically found that Waymo's asserted trade secret number one was  
9 “nothing more than Optics 101,” deleting that supposed “trade secret” from the case long before  
10 the parties began to argue over asserted trade secret number 96 (*see* Dkt No. 426 at 16–17).

11 Defendants filed a supplemental brief pointing out that Waymo was essentially  
12 attempting to circle back to claiming a “[REDACTED]” concept. Waymo's response  
13 confirmed that it was attempting to reframe its claim over an entire printed circuit board  
14 schematic to a claim over “its implementation of its [REDACTED] and the resulting [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED].” Waymo attempted to distinguish number 96 from number one by suggesting that the  
16 former claimed its *specific* [REDACTED] configuration rather than the general concept of  
17 [REDACTED] (*see, e.g.*, Dkt. No. 1449-4 at 3–4). Moreover, Waymo argued that its  
18 disclosure was adequate as to asserted trade secret number 96 because it “identified this exact  
19 PCB schematic, and identified for Defendants that one unique aspect of the schematic *reflected*  
20 ‘the [REDACTED]’” (*id.* at 4 (emphasis added)).

21 This raised problems. *First*, as explained, it effectively resurrected Waymo's asserted  
22 trade secret number one, previously rejected as nothing more than “Optics 101.” *Second*, it cast  
23 into sharp relief the unreasonableness of Waymo's initial disclosure. Although Waymo did list  
24 the [REDACTED] as *one example* of many “characteristics” encompassed by its  
25 asserted trade secret, it would have been wholly unreasonable to expect defendants to discern,  
26 from the complex schematic and from Waymo's nonexclusive list of examples — not to  
27 mention its expansion of the asserted trade secret to include “reflected” strategies and concepts  
28 — that Waymo's true focus in asserted trade secret number 96 all along was only on its [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] strategy. *Third*, and in a similar vein, Waymo’s retreat back to its  
 2 asserted trade secret number one actually exacerbated the unreasonableness of its disclosure.  
 3 Even assuming for the sake of argument that defendants were obliged to guess what specific  
 4 component of the claimed schematic would emerge as the issue, the very *last* thing they could  
 5 be expected to guess would be something already deleted from the case.

6 To repeat, Waymo’s disclosure might still perhaps have been reasonably adequate had  
 7 Waymo presented evidence that defendants misappropriated its *specific implementation* (*see*  
 8 Dkt. No. 1159-4 at 6). But the PCB in question was not copied in its entirety, not even close.

9 Nor, as it turns out, was the [REDACTED] copied. The latter proved to be  
 10 conclusively different, and no jury could reasonably find otherwise.

11 For starters, Waymo’s PCB [REDACTED] while Uber’s [REDACTED] (*see*,  
 12 *e.g.*, Dkt. No. 1357-3 at 24). The Court nevertheless asked both sides to provide detailed  
 13 comparisons of their [REDACTED] strategies for both PCBs in question (and for all  
 14 PCBs in both LiDAR systems) (*see* Dkt. Nos. 1408, 1416). In response, Waymo submitted a  
 15 declaration by its hired expert Lambertus Hesselink (Dkt. No. 1456-3). In a series of parabolic  
 16 graphs, Dr. Hesselink compared the Petzval surfaces of Waymo and Uber’s respective transmit  
 17 lenses, even scaling for the discrepancy between their focal lengths — 120 mm versus 150 mm  
 18 — to maximize the overlap between the resulting parabolic graphs (*id.* ¶¶ 13–23).<sup>3</sup>

19 Two identical lenses, however, will always have identical Petzval surfaces — always.  
 20 An overlay of Petzval surfaces proves nothing in this case. Waymo insists that “Prof.  
 21 Hesselink’s analysis shows that the lens material and lens shape do not meaningfully contribute  
 22 to the shape of the Petzval surface in the case of the two transmit boards under comparison,” so  
 23 “his analysis shows that the transmit lenses [are] substantially similar in terms of their overall  
 24 optical properties” (*see, e.g.*, Dkt. No. 1634-4 at 18–19). But asserted trade secret number 96,  
 25 as broad as it is, has nothing to do with the “optical properties” of any transmit lens. Rather,  
 26 what supposedly matters is the [REDACTED] along the Petzval surfaces,

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27  
 28 <sup>3</sup> In an optics system, the image corresponding to a linear object focused by a lens will lie on a curved  
 surface also called the Petzval surface.

1 which [REDACTED]. Even with Dr.  
 2 Hesselink's overlay of the scaled Petzval surfaces, however, it is apparent from his own graphs  
 3 that the [REDACTED] where Waymo and Uber's [REDACTED] fall on the overlaid Petzval surface  
 4 do not overlap at all (*see* Dkt. No. 1456-3 ¶ 23).<sup>4</sup>

5 Nevertheless, Dr. Hesselink concluded (*id.* ¶ 24 (emphasis added)):

6 This comparison allows evaluation of whether the [REDACTED]  
 7 from the Uber system fall on the Waymo parabola. *They do, as*  
*reflected by the fact that the curves are quite similar.* The [REDACTED]  
 8 [REDACTED] are similar as well, but not identical, reflecting that Uber  
 took a similar approach to Waymo in designing their [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

9 In other words, Dr. Hesselink manufactured a visually-similar match between the Petzval  
 10 surfaces of Waymo and Uber's respective transmit lenses, and then tried to suggest that this  
 11 visually-similar match in Petzval surfaces somehow translated to similar [REDACTED].  
 12 And despite acknowledging that the [REDACTED] are "not identical" even on the scaled and  
 13 overlaid curves, he parroted, with no additional analysis, Waymo's unsupported litigation  
 14 position that Uber "took a similar approach to Waymo in designing their [REDACTED]"

15 To repeat, two identical lenses will always have identical Petzval surfaces — always.  
 16 That proves nothing for Waymo. What matters with respect to asserted trade secret number 96  
 17 is *where on the Petzval surfaces* the [REDACTED] in Waymo and Uber's respective LiDAR systems  
 18 are placed. Of course, all [REDACTED] must be placed somewhere on the Petzval surface —  
 19 otherwise they will be out of focus. But, as stated, Uber's accused PCB [REDACTED] while  
 20 Waymo's claimed PCB [REDACTED] (*see, e.g.*, Dkt. No. 1357-3 at 24). Moreover, the [REDACTED]  
 21 of Uber's [REDACTED] did not overlap with any [REDACTED] on Waymo's claimed PCB, and the  
 22 [REDACTED] for each side produced dramatically different [REDACTED].

23 Dr. Hesselink's emphasis on the similarity of the Petzval surfaces is a trick — smoke  
 24 and mirrors. His inexplicable leap from that similarity to the conclusion that Uber "took a  
 25 similar approach to Waymo in designing their [REDACTED]" — despite all the aforementioned  
 26 differences between the two sides' [REDACTED] approaches — renders his opinion unreliable,  
 27

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28 <sup>4</sup> This is consistent with other responses by both sides showing that their LiDAR systems share neither  
 similar [REDACTED] nor a similar [REDACTED] strategy (*see, e.g.*, Dkt. Nos. 1458-5, 1461-5).

1 and thus inadmissible, under Federal Rule of Evidence 702 and *Daubert v. Merrell Dow*  
2 *Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579, 597 (1993). *See Gen. Elec. Co. v. Joiner*, 522 U.S. 136,  
3 146 (1997) (a district court may exclude an expert opinion where “there is simply too great an  
4 analytical gap between the data and the opinion proffered”). Moreover, his suggestion that the  
5 overlap of the Petzval surfaces — which, of course, are visually similar — somehow constitutes  
6 evidence that Uber misappropriated Waymo’s [REDACTED] strategy would be grossly  
7 misleading to the jury, more prejudicial than probative, and thus inadmissible under FRE 403 as  
8 well. Dr. Hesselink’s opinion as to asserted trade secret number 96 is therefore **STRICKEN**.

9 In short, summary judgment is appropriate as to asserted trade secret number 96 because  
10 (1) it was inadequately disclosed at the outset of this litigation, (2) Waymo’s evidence of  
11 misappropriation by defendants relied upon an unreliable expert opinion that would be more  
12 prejudicial than probative to the jury, (3) insofar as Waymo reformed its asserted trade secret to  
13 resurrect asserted trade secret number one, it is rejected again as “Optics 101,” and (4) the  
14 evidentiary record shows that even under Waymo’s reformed version of asserted trade secret  
15 number 96, there is no genuine dispute of material fact that defendants use neither Waymo’s  
16 [REDACTED] nor its [REDACTED] strategy. Defendants’ motions to strike  
17 and for summary judgment as to asserted trade secret number 96 are therefore **GRANTED**.

## 18 CONCLUSION

19 For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff’s motion is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**.  
20 Defendants’ motion is also **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. Defendants’ motions to  
21 strike and for summary judgment as to asserted trade secret number 96 are **GRANTED**.

22  
23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24  
25 Dated: October 30, 2017.  
26

27  
28   
WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE